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NO ACTION TAKEN

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1. We believe that the information we are not now getting on pacification is essential to current intelligence <sup>this</sup> reporting on ~~x~~/vital area of interest. ~~xx~~ It will become increasingly important for us to know what the real situation is in the ~~x~~ rural areas of South Vietnam when the talks get around to a political settlement between the Communists and the government.

2. As far as we are aware, the information we are seeking is not now being collected and reported, even in the <sup>the</sup> field, except through/MACCORDS channel which is both inadequate and very late in arriving in Washington.

3. We recommend:

- a) The CIA Station should resume monthly reports assessing the ~~xx~~ pacification situation in each province. Such reporting stopped in late 1967.
- b) The Embassy resume its monthly provincial assessments which, we have been told informally, was halted at MACCORDS' request.